

Psychology (AQA A Level)

What is the course about?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. Studying psychology at A-Level involves learning about theories of the human mind and behaviour and then evaluating these using research evidence. It also includes understanding research methods and approaches in psychology.



Is this course suitable for me?

Are you interested in:

- ◆ Understanding more about why we think, feel and act the way we do?
- ◆ Whether our behaviour is affected by our biology or our experience?
- ◆ Thinking for yourself and evaluating research?

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Psychology uses a variety of skills from English, Maths and Science, therefore it is essential you have good grades in these at GCSE. You do not need to have studied Psychology at GCSE, although if you have, you can use the knowledge you have gained as a foundation to the A-Level material. Psychology is all about research, therefore it is important to be interested in how research is conducted and evaluation of research.



How can Psychology A-Level develop my full range of skills?

During the Psychology A-Level course you will:

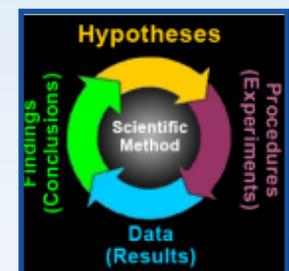
- learn how to use evidence from research to support your arguments
- learn research skills
- develop your ability to explain your point of view fluently
- Learn how to evaluate and analyse scientific research

Course content

AQA syllabus (7181/ 7182)

Year 12 content

- Memory (how memory works and problems of eye witness testimony)
- Attachment (why children form attachments and what happens when children don't form attachments)
- Research methods (how to design and interpret research).
- Approaches in psychology and biopsychology
- Social influence (why some people conform and obey and why some people don't)
- Psychopathology (definitions, explanations and therapies)



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Year 13 content

- Issues and debates in psychology
- Relationships (factors affecting romantic relationships, theories of relationships, virtual and para-social relationships)
- Aggression (biological and psychological explanations of aggression, institutional aggression and media influences on aggression)
- Schizophrenia (classification, biological and psychological explanations and therapies)
- Research methods (how to design and interpret research and the scientific method)
- Biopsychology



How will the course be taught?

You will use textbooks and notes as a foundation, but we will build on this by looking at current psychological research and conducting class experiments. We will use documentary and film to deepen our understanding of the topics covered. At times you will work in groups, pairs and independently to prepare written work and presentation. You will also be encouraged to use ICT to support your learning.

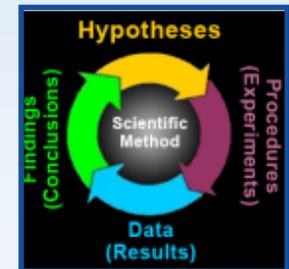


Assessment

Assessment is exam based.
There is no coursework.

Possible careers

Psychology is a really good choice for students who would like a career working with people. For example marketing, advertising, human resources, teaching, social care and in the sports industry.



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